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WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR IDAHO



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
MAY 22, 1975
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS
MAY 22, 1975
MAY 22, 1975

U. S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE ★ SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Collaborating with

IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF WATER ADMINISTRATION

Data included in this report were obtained by the agencies named above in cooperation
with Federal, State and private organizations listed inside the back cover of this report.

AS OF
JAN. 1, 1975

TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several months before the snow melts and appears as streamflow. Since the runoff from precipitation as snow is delayed, estimates of snowmelt runoff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally on measurement of the water equivalent of the mountain snowpack.

Forecasts become more accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snow accumulation and melt season will interact with a resultant average effect on runoff. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A total of about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reported as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snow surveys are made monthly or semi-monthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1900 snow courses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. Networks of automatic snow water equivalent and related data sensing devices, along with radio telemetry are expanding and will provide a continuous record of snow water and other parameters at key locations.

Detailed data on snow course and soil moisture measurements are presented in state and local reports. Other data on reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflow, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report for Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply outlook conditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and storage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and soil moisture data for the period of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about October 1 of each year.

*Cover Photo: Cabins near Sacajawea Snow Course
in Bridger Mountains, Montana.*

SCS PHOTO 11-P480-15

PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

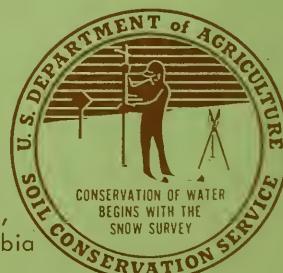
The Soil Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snow survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in cooperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports for Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, West Technical Service Center, Room 111, 511 N.W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and local reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	204 E. 5th. Ave., Room 217, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Arizona	6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85025
Colorado (N. Mex.)	P. O. Box 17107, Denver, Colorado 80217
Idaho	Room 345, 304 N. 8th. St., Boise, Idaho 83702
Montana	P. O. Box 98, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1218 S. W. Washington St., Portland, Oregon 97205
Utah	4012 Federal Bldg., 125 South State St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84138
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, Washington 99201
Wyoming	P. O. Box 2440, Casper, Wyoming 82601

PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Forecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources Service, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR IDAHO

and
FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

Issued by

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WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK for IDAHO



GENERAL SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 1, 1975

Snow accumulation in the mountains of Idaho thus far in the 1974-75 winter season has been below normal throughout the state except for the southern tributary drainages into the Snake River and the small watersheds north of the Pend Oreille River in the northern part of the state. Snow-water equivalent varies from a low of 62% of normal on the Little Wood River watershed to a high of 128% of average on the Bruneau River drainage along the Idaho-Nevada border.

Soil moisture in general is below normal due to below normal precipitation during the summer and fall months of 1974.

Carryover storage in the irrigation reservoirs is near normal throughout the state with some smaller reservoirs reporting well above average contents as of January 1.

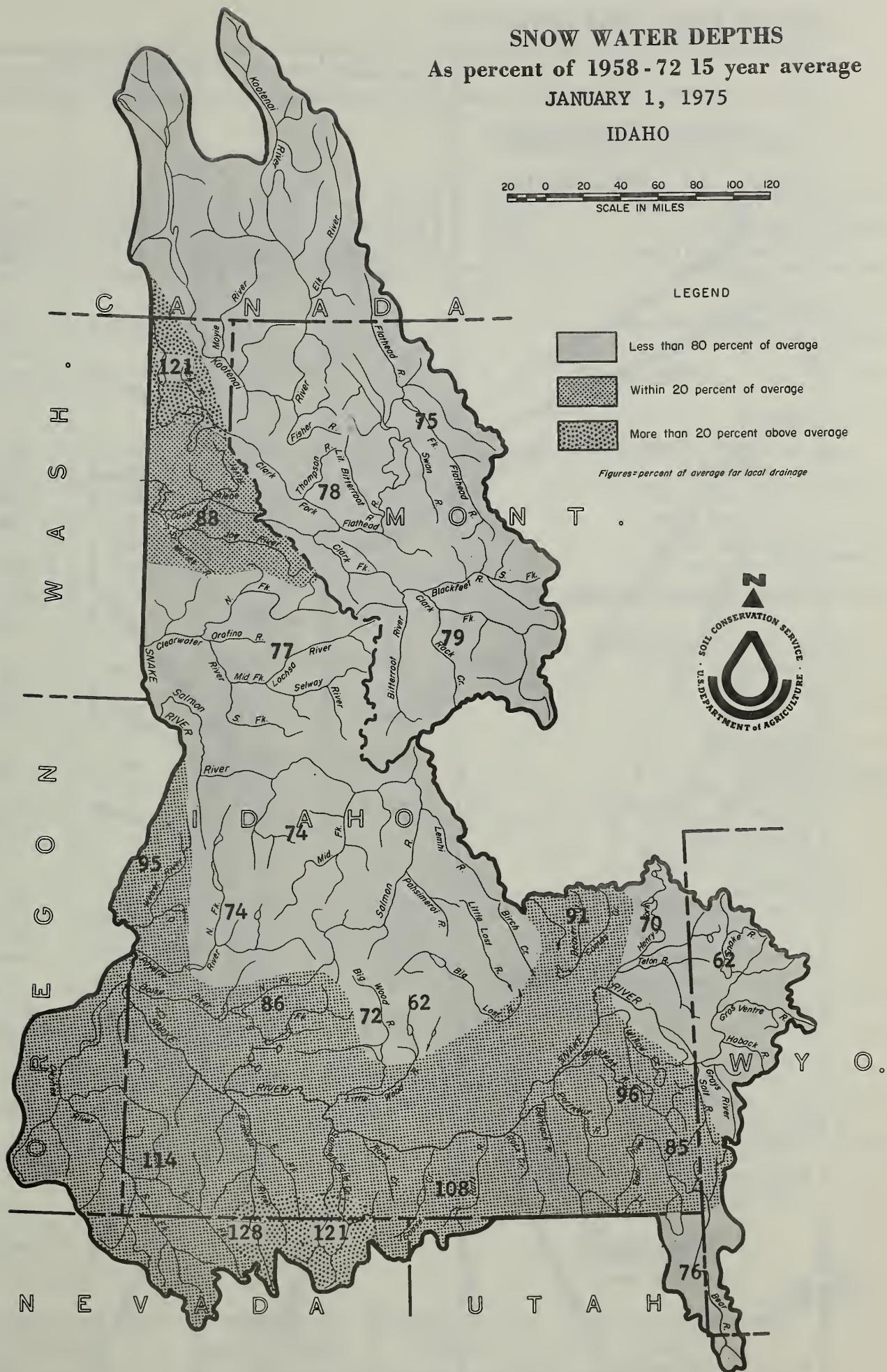
COMPARISON of SNOW COVER

RIVER BASIN WATERSHED	NO. OF COURSES AVERAGED	THIS YEARS SNOW WATER EXPRESSED AS PERCENT OF :	
		LAST YEAR	1958-72 AVERAGE
<u>UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN</u>			
Pend Oreille River	29	62	78
Clark Fork River	25	62	79
Flathead River	4	63	75
Priest River	4	75	121
Spokane River	1	75	88
<u>LOWER SNAKE RIVER BASIN</u>			
Clearwater River	5-16	58	77
Salmon River	10-19	43	74
Lemhi River	6	35	--
<u>MIDDLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN - Northside</u>			
Little Wood River	2-3	45	62
Big Wood River	5	47	72
Boise River	7	51	86
Payette River	9-12	44	74
Weiser River	1	44	95
<u>MIDDLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN - Southside</u>			
Raft River	1	51	108
Salmon Falls Creek	7	92	121
Bruneau River	3	103	128
Owyhee River	3	62	114
<u>UPPER SNAKE RIVER BASIN</u>			
Snake Basin - Wyoming	11	--	62
Camas-Beaver Creeks	2	78	91
Henrys Fork River	4-7	46	70
Willow-Sand Creeks	6	79	--
Blackfoot River	1	98	96
<u>GREAT BASIN</u>			
Montpelier Creek	4	70	85

SNOW WATER DEPTHS
As percent of 1958-72 15 year average
JANUARY 1, 1975

IDAHO

20 0 20 40 60 80 100 120
SCALE IN MILES



RESERVOIR STORAGE (1,000 Ac. Ft.)

RESERVOIR	USABLE CAPACITY	MEASURED (First of Month)		
		THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	1958-72 AVERAGE
<u>UPPER COLUMBIA BASIN</u>				
<u>Clark Fork - Pend Oreille</u>				
Hungry Horse	3428.0	2162.0	2604.0	2766.0
Flathead	1791.0	1479.0	1386.0	1423.0
Pend Oreille	1155.1	134.2	326.5	431.2
Noxon	334.6	321.2	295.4	325.5
<u>Spokane</u>				
Coeur d'Alene	225.1	61.6	182.0	138.2
<u>SNAKE BASIN</u>				
<u>Snake</u>				
Jackson Lake	847.0	599.3	633.5	531.5
Palisades	1200.0	978.4	936.5	751.3
American Falls	1125.0	926.4	825.9	448.4
Island Park	127.0	103.5	90.4	82.0
Grassy Lake	15.2	10.5	10.3	9.6
Brownlee	980.2	873.8	941.3	792.7*
<u>Goose-Trapper Creeks</u>				
Oakley	74.4	35.5	39.5	12.6
<u>Salmon Falls Creek</u>				
Salmon Falls	182.6	58.5	71.7	25.5
<u>Big Lost</u>				
Mackay	44.2	21.7	20.0	27.7
<u>Big Wood</u>				
Magic	191.5	100.3	45.9	88.5
<u>Little Wood</u>				
Little Wood	30.0	10.4	11.2	11.6
<u>Fish Creek</u>				
Carey Valley	14.4	3.5	3.7	--
<u>Boise</u>				
Anderson Ranch	423.2	292.2	236.4	278.0
Arrowrock	286.6	215.6	176.2	204.9
Lucky Peak	278.2	50.8	46.0	60.3
Lake Lowell (Deer Flat)	169.0	112.2	105.9	106.3
<u>Owyhee</u>				
Owyhee	715.0	410.1	434.6	406.8
<u>Payette</u>				
Cascade	653.2	397.0	342.6	354.0
Deadwood	161.9	77.3	21.5	68.0
<u>Weiser</u>				
Mann Creek	11.1	2.7	6.5	--
<u>Clearwater</u>				
Dworshak	2016.0	1214.5	1426.9	--
<u>GREAT BASIN</u>				
<u>Bear</u>				
Bear Lake	1421.0	1087.5	1109.1	944.4

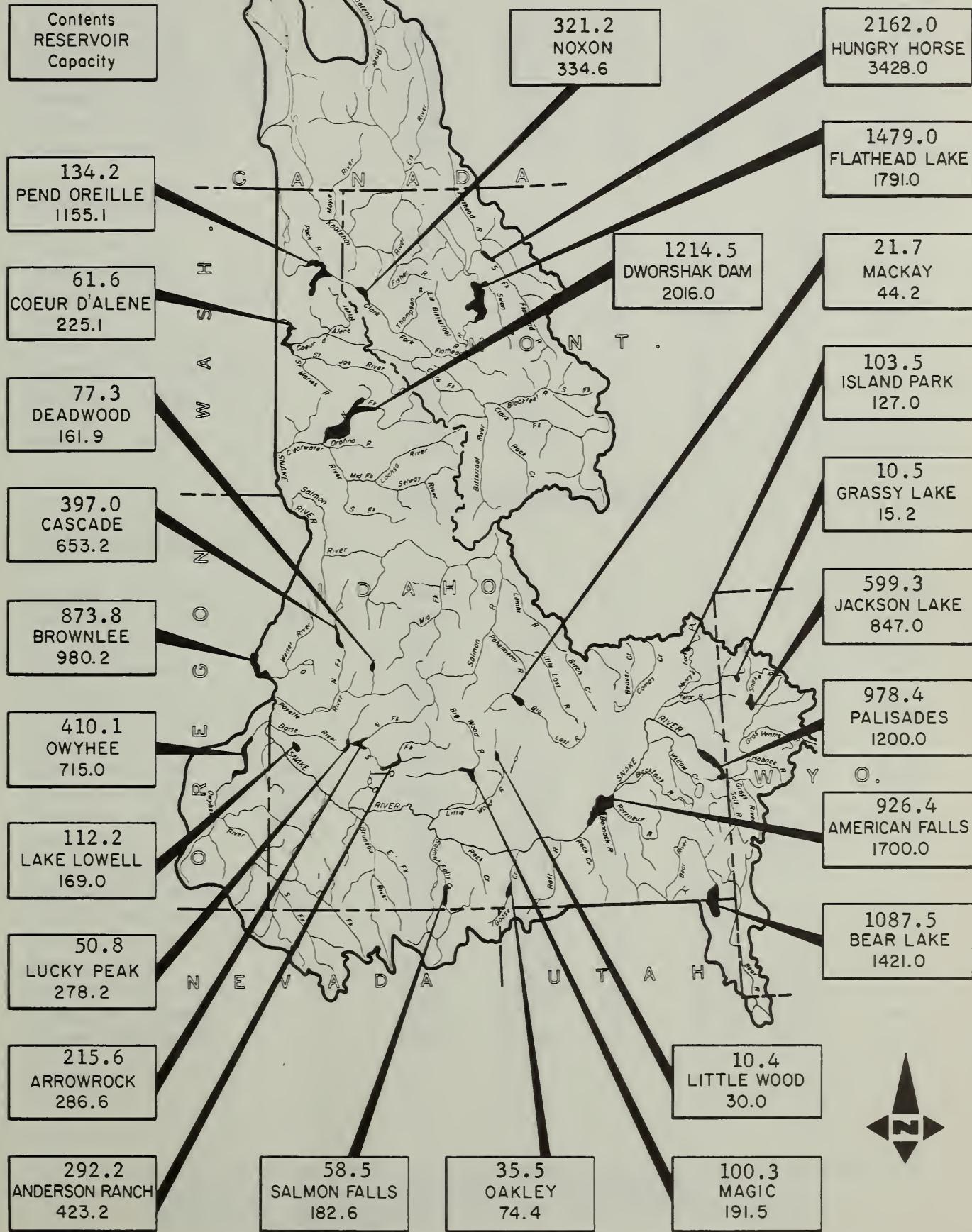
*Period of Record

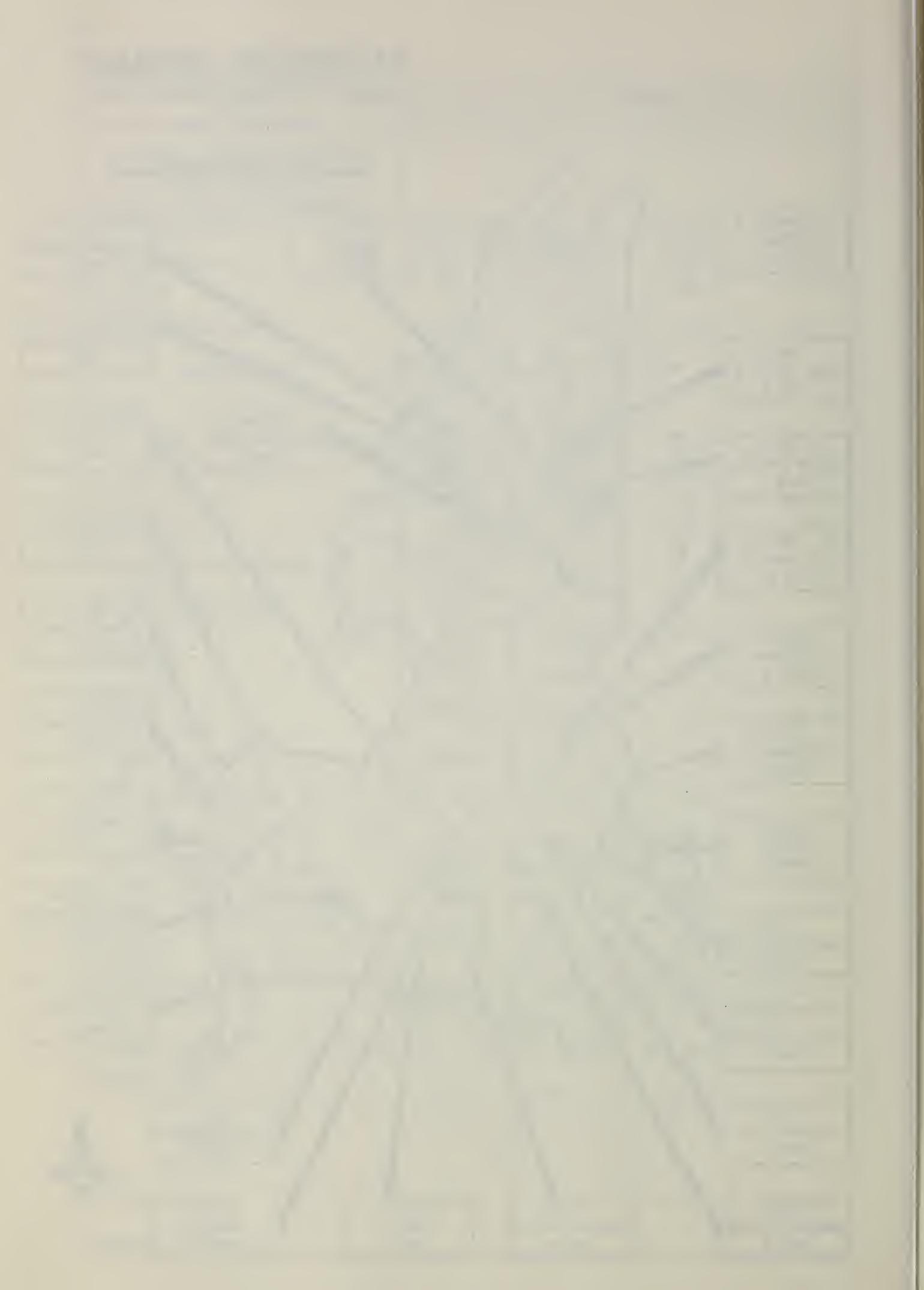
RESERVOIR STORAGE

USABLE CONTENTS (1,000 Acre Feet)

JANUARY 1, 1975

50 0 50 100 150
SCALE IN MILES





SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Last Year	Average b
NAME	Elevation					

UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER BASINPEND OREILLE - PRIEST RIVER

Benton Meadow	2344	12/30	15	1.9	3.0	3.5
Benton Spring	4900	1/3	36	9.3	14.3	8.4
#Mosquito Ridge (SP)	5110	1/1	--	17.7	--	--
#Mosquito Ridge (SP)	5110	1/6	--	19.0	--	--
Schweitzer Bowl	4500	12/31	61	16.6	24.8	14.3*
Schweitzer Ridge	6100	12/31	93	30.2	34.8	21.6*

SPOKANE RIVER

Above Burke	4100	1/2	37	9.7	9.8	--
Copper Ridge	4800	1/2	38	9.2	--	--
Fourth of July Summit	3100	1/2	21	4.3	--	--
Lookout	5250	12/30	54	13.6	18.1	15.5
Lower Sands Creek	3400	12/31	29	6.4	--	--
Mosquito Ridge (SP)	5110	1/1	--	17.7	--	--
Mosquito Ridge (SP)	5110	1/6	--	19.0	--	--
Sherwin	3200	12/30	29	5.6	10.0	--
Sherwin (SP)	3200	12/30	--	6.0	9.3	--

LOWER SNAKE RIVER BASINCLEARWATER RIVER

Cayuse Airstrip	3700	1/2	26	3.5	8.5	5.5*
Coolwater Mountain (SP)	6200	1/1	--	1.0	--	--
Cottonwood Butte	5140	12/31	20	3.7	7.7	--
Crater Meadows	6100	1/2	58	13.8	22.9	--
Crooked Fork	3600	12/31	27	6.0	8.2	--
Fish Lake Airstrip	5000	1/2	60	12.7	20.7	17.6*
Hemlock Butte	5500	1/2	65	15.4	29.7	--
#Hoodoo Basin Mont.	6000	12/27	66	17.0	30.0	20.8
#Hoodoo Basin (SP) Mont.	6000	12/31	--	18.1	--	19.1
#Hoodoo Creek Mont.	5900	12/27	63	13.9	24.9	18.9
Lolo Pass	5250	12/31	48	10.7	15.2	--
Lower Snowhaven	5300	12/31	27	5.8	10.8	--
Orogrande Mountain (SP)	7800	1/1	--	16.5	--	--
Pierce Ranger Station	3170	12/31	22	4.5	8.0	4.5
Powell Ranger Station	3410	12/31	26	5.0	7.0	--
Savage Pass	6160	12/30	39	8.8	13.0	--
Savage Pass (New)	6160	12/30	42	9.1	13.2	--
Shanghai Summit	4600	1/2	38	8.4	17.2	--
Upper Snowhaven	5600	12/31	22	6.0	11.2	--

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	Last Year
NAME	Elevation					b

SALMON RIVER

Big Creek Summit	6600	12/26	41	9.7	22.9	13.8*
#Boulder Creek	5500	12/31	35	9.5	21.6	10.0*
Brundage Mountain	7560	12/29	58	13.8	36.8	18.6*
#Deadwood Summit	7000	12/31	55	13.1	35.2	24.4*
#Deadwood Summit (SP)	7000	12/30	--	11.9	--	--
#Galena Summit	8795	12/30	43	8.9	16.4	10.4
#Gibbons Pass Mont.	7100	12/30	36	6.7	11.5	9.5
Mill Creek Summit (A)	8870	1/2	32	7.5	16.0	10.5*
Moose Creek	6200	1/2	28	5.2	9.7	5.6*
Morgan Creek	7580	12/30	25	4.0	8.3	5.9*
#Rock Flat Summit	5200	12/29	31	6.6	12.5	6.8
#Secesh Summit	6440	1/2	51	12.4	27.3	--
#Squaw Meadow	5800	1/2	49	11.5	28.7	--
Twin Peaks (A)	10300	1/2	40	9.4	17.6	--
Vienna Mine	8900	1/2	44	11.3	--	--

Lemhi River

Above Gilmore (A)	8200	1/2	11	1.7	5.3	--
Aspen-Hall Pass (A)	8110	1/2	18	2.8	5.6	--
Copes Camp (A)	7500	1/2	12	1.9	4.5	--
Hall Creek (A)	7560	1/2	7	1.1	3.4	--
Meadow Lake (A)	9100	1/2	19	3.0	12.9	--
Schwartz Lake (A)	8500	1/2	24	3.8	9.0	--

(b) 1958-72, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. * Estimated 1958-72, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation Water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent.
(R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Last Year	Average ^b
NAME	Elevation					

MIDDLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN - NORTHSIDEBIG LOST RIVER

Bear Canyon	7920	12/26	15	3.0	--	--
Copper Basin	7650	12/26	6	0.9	--	--
Fishpole Lake	9350	12/26	21	4.9	--	--
Lost-Wood Divide	7900	12/26	18	4.5	--	--
Stickney Mill	7500	12/26	14	2.3	--	--

LITTLE WOOD RIVER

#Bear Canyon	7920	12/26	15	3.0	--	--
Garfield Ranger Station	6554	12/31	17	2.6	5.2	4.4*
Muldoon	6300	12/31	16	2.1	3.5	3.2*
Swede Peak	7650	12/31	25	4.1	10.8	--

BIG WOOD RIVER

Galena	7300	12/30	33	5.9	13.6	8.0
Galena Summit	8795	12/30	43	8.9	16.4	10.4
Graham Ranch	6200	12/30	24	3.8	7.4	5.6
Mascot Mine	7900	12/26	10	2.1	--	--
Mount Baldy	9000	1/2	34	6.2	13.0	8.8
Soldier Ranger Station	6100	1/2	13	2.4	7.8	5.2*
#Vienna Mine	8900	1/2	44	11.3	--	--

BOISE RIVER

Atlanta Summit	7500	1/2	45	10.7	24.9	15.2*
Atlanta Summit (SP)	7500	1/3	--	10.7	--	--
Bad Bear	5500	1/3	24	6.1	7.8	6.5*
#Bogus Basin	6120	1/6	42	11.3	18.8	9.3
Bogus Basin Road	5360	1/6	23	5.3	7.6	2.4*
Moores Creek Summit	6100	1/3	44	11.1	20.2	13.0
#Soldier Ranger Station	6100	1/2	13	2.4	7.8	5.2*
Trinity Mountain	7780	1/2	52	14.0	32.9	19.1*
Trinity Mountain (SP)	7780	1/3	--	14.2	--	--
Trinity Mountain (R)	7780	1/3	--	14.6	--	--
#Vienna Mine	8900	1/2	44	11.3	--	--

PAYETTE RIVER

#Big Creek Summit	6600	12/26	41	9.7	22.9	13.8*
Bogus Basin	6120	1/6	42	11.3	18.8	9.3
#Brundage Mountain	7560	12/29	58	13.8	36.8	18.6*
Cozy Cove	5900	12/31	30	5.5	10.8	6.9
Cozy Cove (SP)	5900	1/3	--	5.2	--	--
Crawford Ranger Station	4800	12/26	6	1.4	4.6	3.1*

(b) 1958-72, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. *Estimated 1958-72, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation Water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent. (R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	Last Year
NAME	Elevation					Average ^b
Deadwood Airstrip	5440	12/31	29	5.5	10.6	6.6
Deadwood Dam	5290	12/31	28	5.0	10.5	7.2
Deadwood Summit	7000	12/31	55	13.1	35.2	24.4*
Deadwood Summit (SP)	7000	1/3	--	12.2	--	--
Lake Fork	6000	1/2	31	6.5	11.8	--
Rock Flat Summit	5200	12/29	31	6.6	12.5	6.8
Secesh Summit	6440	1/2	51	12.4	27.3	--
Squaw Meadow	5800	1/2	49	11.5	28.7	--

WEISER RIVER

Boulder Creek	5500	12/31	35	9.5	21.6	10.0*
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(R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	Last Year
NAME	Elevation					b

MIDDLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN - SOUTHSIDERAFT RIVER

Howell Canyon	8000	12/30	36	10.7	20.8	9.9
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SALMON FALLS CREEK

#Bear Creek (A)	Nev.	7800	12/29	38	10.4	9.2	7.5*
Cedar Creek (A)		7000	12/29	21	5.5	6.7	4.1*
Deadline		6900	12/27	37	9.8	11.5	8.7
Goat Creek	Nev.	8800	12/28	34	8.2	8.3	7.5*
Goat Creek (A)	Nev.	8800	12/29	36	9.8	8.3	7.5*
#Hummingbird Spgs. (A)	Nev.	8945	12/29	31	8.7	10.8	8.7*
Magic Mountain		6700	12/27	30	7.9	10.9	6.9
#Pole Creek R. S.	Nev.	8330	12/28	42	11.5	9.7	7.7
Red Point (A)	Nev.	7940	12/29	10	2.8	1.6	--
Shoshone Basin		5740	12/27	17	4.0	--	--
Wilson Creek (A)		7500	12/29	27	7.5	6.5	--

BRUNEAU RIVER

Bear Creek (A)	Nev.	7800	12/29	38	10.4	9.2	7.5*
Hummingbird Springs (A)	Nev.	8945	12/29	31	8.7	10.8	8.7*
Pole Creek R. S.	Nev.	8330	12/28	42	11.5	9.7	7.7
#Seventy-six Creek (A)	Nev.	7100	12/29	21	5.9	8.1	--

OWYHEE RIVER

#Bear Creek (A)	Nev.	7800	12/29	38	10.4	9.2	7.5*
#Seventy-six Creek (A)	Nev.	7100	12/29	21	5.9	8.1	--
Silver City		6400	12/30	29	6.2	12.7	5.6*
South Mountain		6340	12/27	16	4.0	11.2	4.9*

SNOW

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NAME	Elevation					

UPPER SNAKE RIVER BASINCAMAS-BEAVER CREEKS

Camp Creek	6800	12/31	19	3.8	4.6	4.3
Kilgore	6200	12/31	20	4.1	5.5	4.4*

HENRYS FORK RIVER

Big Springs	6500	12/30	32	5.0	10.6	7.8
Grassy Lake	7230	12/30	49	11.1	18.8	14.1
Island Park	6315	12/30	30	4.4	8.8	6.1
Sawtell Mountain	8720	12/30	44	9.0	23.4	--
Targhee Pass	7000	12/30	24	3.7	6.3	--
Valley View	6500	12/30	24	3.5	7.4	6.3
White Elephant	7700	12/30	33	5.8	16.1	--

TETON RIVER

McRenolds Reservoir	6800	1/3	34	7.6	10.2	--
Pine Creek Pass	6750		Delayed		9.0	6.6*
State Line	6650		Delayed		6.8	5.7

WILLOW CREEK

Aspen Grove	6600	1/2	26	6.2	7.0	--
Birch Creek	6800	1/2	21	4.2	5.8	--
Blue Ridge	6800	1/2	29	7.1	--	--
Bone	6200	1/2	12	2.1	3.3	2.6*
Brockman Station	6430	1/2	18	3.4	--	--
Hell Creek	7100	1/2	23	4.5	--	--
Mud Creek	7150	1/2	33	7.9	--	--
Sheep Mountain	6510	1/2	22	4.1	5.8	--
Tex Creek	6550	1/2	22	4.0	4.8	--

SAND CREEK

Henry Creek	5650	1/2	13	2.5	2.6	2.1*
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BLACKFOOT RIVER

Austin Bros. Ranch	6400	1/3	14	2.4	--	--
Slug Creek Divide	7230	12/30	28	7.5	7.6	--
Somsen Ranch	7000	1/3	26	5.0	--	5.2*

(b) 1958-72, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. *Estimated 1958-72, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation Water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent. (R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Last Year	Average
NAME	Elevation					

GREAT BASINBEAR RIVER

Emigrant Summit	7350	12/31	38	10.2	14.6	9.2*
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Montpelier Creek

Giveout	6840	12/30	19	4.6	6.2	4.6*
Little Beaver	6970	12/30	25	6.0	7.0	5.4*
Montpelier Creek	6570	12/31	11	2.2	4.2	3.5*
Whiskey Flat	6985	12/30	9	1.8	3.6	3.7*

Mink Creek

#Emigrant Summit	7350	12/31	38	10.2	14.6	9.2*
Liberty Spring	8600	12/30	53	16.1	--	--

Cub River

Willow Flat	6100	12/30	28	7.9	--	--
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SOIL MOISTURE

Agencies and Organizations Cooperating in Idaho Snow Surveys

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

States:

Idaho Department of Water Resources
State of Idaho Department of Fish and Game
University of Idaho
Idaho State University
Montana Agricultural Experiment Station
Montana State Water Conservation Board
Montana Cooperative Snow Surveys
Nevada Cooperative Snow Surveys
Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station
Oregon Cooperative Snow Surveys
Oregon State Engineer and Corps of
 State Watermasters
Utah Cooperative Snow Surveys
Wyoming Cooperative Snow Surveys

Federal:

U.S. Army Engineers

U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Forest Service
 Agriculture Research Service

U.S. Department of Commerce
 NOAA, National Weather Service

U.S. Department of the Interior
 Bonneville Power Administration
 Bureau of Reclamation
 Fish and Wildlife Service
 Water Resources Division, Geological Survey
 National Park Service
 Bureau of Land Management

PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Montana Power Company
Washington Water Power Company
Idaho Power Company
Utah Power and Light Company

ORGANIZED PUBLIC AGENCIES

Big Lost River Irrigation District
Blaine Soil Conservation District
Boise Project Board of Control
Idaho Water District #01
Little Wood River Irrigation District
Mann Creek Irrigation District
Salmon Falls Creek Irrigation Company
Twin Falls Soil Conservation District
Big Wood Irrigation Company
Owyhee Project - North & South Board of Control



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necessary for forecasting
water supply for irrigation,
domestic and municipal water
supply, hydro-electric power
generation, navigation,
mining and industry

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*"The Conservation of Water begins
with the Snow Survey"*

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